

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A locking surgical instrument for gripping a surgical workpiece, the instrument comprising:

a body including a shaft having a first end, a second end, and an axis therebetween, an engagement tip formed adjacent the second end, the engagement tip having a free end is receivable by the workpiece, ~~a portion of the engagement tip being~~ is divided by one or more slits from the free second end toward the first end of the body shaft for a predetermined distance to form a plurality of segments having segment tips at the free end of the of the engagement tip and segment bases spaced away from the free end of the engagement tip at the termination of the one or more slits, the segments able to be biased radially outwardly to grip the workpiece in force transmitting relationship, the engagement tip having a polygonal cross sectional shape including flats and vertices, the engagement tip being slit through flats only and the vertices being left intact such that upon expansion of the engagement tip the vertices bite into the workpiece; and

an actuator engageable with the body such that movement of the actuator biases the segments to grip the workpiece.
2. (currently amended) The instrument of claim 1 wherein the engagement tip has a triangular cross sectional shape ~~engages the workpiece in an axial force transmitting relationship.~~

3. (original) The instrument of claim 1 wherein the body shaft is axially cannulated from the first end toward the second end such that the cannula extends under the slit portion a predetermined amount and the actuator includes a shaft having a first end, a second end, and an axis therebetween, the shaft being receivable within the cannula for axial translation between an unlocked position in which the actuator second end is spaced from the body shaft second end and a locked position in which the actuator second end is nearer the body shaft second end and biases the segments.
4. (original) The instrument of claim 3 wherein the actuator threadingly engages the body such that turning the actuator causes it to axially translate between the unlocked and locked positions.
5. (original) The instrument of claim 3 wherein the cannula comprises a first diameter spaced from the body shaft second end and a second diameter within the slit portion, the second diameter being smaller than the first diameter such that the actuator is engageable with the second diameter to bias the segments.
6. (currently amended) The instrument of claim 5 wherein the cannula tapers from the first diameter to the second diameter, the actuator shaft second end having a blunt cylindrical tip that abuts the tapered portion of the cannula nearer the segment bases than the segment tips, the actuator shaft second end biasing the segments apart near the segment bases such that the segments bow outwardly between the segment bases and the segment tips when the engagement tip is engaged with a workpiece.
7. (original) The instrument of claim 6 wherein the cannula tapers under the slit portion.

8. (original) The instrument of claim 5 wherein the actuator includes a tapered portion near its second end, the actuator tapered portion being engageable with the second diameter of the cannula to bias the segments.
9. (original) The instrument of claim 3 wherein the cannula extends completely through the shaft from the first end to the second end.
10. (original) The instrument of claim 1 wherein the one or more slits each terminate with a circular opening having a radius greater than one-half the width of the slit.
11. (original) The instrument of claim 1 wherein the engagement tip further engages the workpiece in torque transmitting relationship.
12. (original) The instrument of claim 11 wherein the engagement tip is non-circular.
13. (canceled)
14. (currently amended) The instrument of claim 1 ~~13~~ wherein the segments are able to be biased by the actuator such that at least one of the vertices is pressed into engagement with the workpiece.
15. (original) The instrument of claim 2 wherein the engagement tip is receivable by a pin of a rotating hinge knee prosthesis to facilitate axial insertion and removal of the pin from the prosthesis.
16. (original) The instrument of claim 15 wherein the engagement tip is receivable by one of a hinge pin and a hinge post extension.
- 17.-19 (canceled)
20. (new) A locking surgical instrument for gripping a surgical workpiece, the instrument comprising:

a body including a shaft having a first end, a second end, and an axis therebetween, an engagement tip formed adjacent the second end, the engagement tip having a free end receivable by the workpiece, the engagement tip being divided by one or more slits from the free end toward the first end of the body shaft for a predetermined distance to form a plurality of segments having segment tips at the free end of the of the engagement tip and segment bases spaced away from the free end of the engagement tip at the termination of the one or more slits, the segments able to be biased radially outwardly to grip the workpiece in force transmitting relationship; and

an actuator engageable with the body such that movement of the actuator biases the segments to grip the workpiece, the actuator biasing the segments apart near the segment bases such that the segments bow elastically outwardly between the segment bases and the segment tips when the engagement tip is engaged with a workpiece.

21. (new) A locking surgical instrument for gripping a surgical workpiece, the instrument comprising:

a body including a cannulated shaft having a first end, a second end, and an axis therebetween, the shaft being cannulated from the first end to the second end, an engagement tip formed adjacent the second end, the engagement tip having a free end receivable by the workpiece, the engagement tip being divided by one or more slits from the free end toward the first end of the body shaft for a predetermined distance to form a plurality of segments having segment tips at the

free end of the of the engagement tip and segment bases spaced away from the free end of the engagement tip at the termination of the one or more slits, the segments able to be biased radially outwardly to grip the workpiece in force transmitting relationship; and

an actuator including a shaft having a first end, a second end, and an axis extending between the first and second ends, the shaft engaging the cannulation of the body shaft for axial translation from a first position in which the second end of the actuator shaft is spaced from the engagement tip segments and a second position in which the second end of the actuator shaft abuts the engagement tip segments to bias the segments radially outwardly, the actuator including a stop adjacent its first end to limit to a predetermined amount the axial translation of the actuator shaft into the body shaft and thus limit to a predetermined amount the radially outward biasing of the engagement tip segments, the stop being positioned to limit the outward biasing of the engagement tip segments to a range within the elastic limits of the segments such that even if the actuator is fully seated without a workpiece in place, the segments will undergo no permanent deformation and will return to their original position when the actuator is withdrawn.